

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES**

**March 25, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Damian Gregory at 1:40 pm. Introductions were done. The agenda for March and the minutes for February 2009 were accepted.

**Attendance:** Ronald Fulton, Dr. Sam Kohlenberg, Damian Gregory, Jose Martinez, John Miller, Jose Granda, Jackson David, Alan Rigerman

**Chairperson's Report:** Mr. Gregory announced that the Riders Meeting had been cancelled. There will be a Riders meeting on April 7 from 6-8 at the Overtown building. Mr. Gregory asked Ms. Hyams to send the notes from the access/transportation meetings to Dan White. There will be a public forum on the new RFP on March 31 and the draft of the RFP will be available. He also attended a VOAD meeting, volunteer organizations adding in a disaster. They discussed how they might be able to access services need for their consumers when there is an emergency. He attended a Transportation Disadvantage Coordinating Board meeting where they were to discuss Medicaid appeals however, the committee felt that there was information missing and they were unable to discuss the appeals. He also attended a Transition Taskforce meeting; helping students with the transition from school to work or to advance studies.

**New Business:**

Ilene Hyams asked if she could bring CODI's attention to focus groups being formed to evaluate the Access Miami publication. She wanted to be sure they knew that there was \$50 compensation and that dinner would be provided. She gave the dates and said that she had also sent this information out by email.

Heidi Johnson Wright, Director of the Office of ADA Coordination, gave an update from the ADA office concerning formal grievances. She is not at liberty to discuss any pending grievance but had information on formal grievances that have been resolved from 10/07 to 9/08. There were nine official complaints:

10/07 Miami-Dade Housing a request for reasonable accommodation -accommodation was provided. 11/07 Miami Dade Corrections a complaint was for the state and we forward the complaint to them. 12/07 Miami Dade Solid Waste - requested for an accommodation by a citizen and it was provided. 1/08 Miami Dade Transit inaccessible stop - County worked with City of Miami to resolve this issue. 3/08 Miami-Dade Courts member of a jury pool requested a reasonable accommodation- this was accommodated.

3/08 Miami Dade Parks - Inaccessibility at Haulover Beach- County worked with City of Bal Harbour to resolve the issue.

6/08 Miami Dade Emergency Management- OEM's website lacked access content -OEM revised website to include all issues sited.

8/08 Miami Dade Animal Services - citizen wanted to be able to use her scooter to transport shelter animals. There is a state law that animal's must be transported inside a vehicle.

9/08 Miami International Airport - passenger and her mother couldn't get a wheelchair. Complaint was sent to highest level of American Airlines staff in Miami.

There was some discussion concerning how a person needs to book a wheelchair. It was reported that this information is on the Airport's website. There was discussion on other complaints and Ms. Johnson -Wright explained that some complaints are informal and are resolved informally other come to her department as "Buck Slips" from senior administration. Mr. Wood asked Ms. Hyams if she had gotten information about a Seafood Festival at Deering Estate and Ms. Hyams said that she didn't believe she had received information on that. He also questioned the use of the pedestal tables on the second floor as tables for people using wheelchairs.

Mr. Gregory introduced Ms. Binhack from the Park and Recreation department. He had not written a letter (Motion made last month to write a letter to Parks) but had emailed her and discussed his concerns of accessibility at the Autism Walk. She had agreed to come to COD to discuss the matter.

Lucy Binhack explained that all special events need to have a permit from the Parks Department and if tents are over 10 x 10 an addition permit is needed from the Building department. The Building permit is supposed to come through the Office of ADA for their stamp. The Parks department has an

11 page set up guide with 2 pages specific for making events accessible. One of the problems with the Autism Walk event was that it never came to the ADA Office for review. Mr. Wood commented that he felt Park staff should supervise the area before the event is opened to the public. There was additional discussion. Some recommended that a procedure needs to be written for the given of permits. Ms. Johnson-Wright recommended that she have a meeting with the Director of the Parks and with the Director of Building to discuss the best way to make sure that ADA office receives the plans for review. Mr. Rigerman said that the Amnesty event was very good and asked if they will have power chairs at the Fair. Ms. Binhack said she didn't know but would bring the suggestion back to Parks.

**Motion made by Ronald Fulton and seconded by John Miller to write a letter to demand that ADA personnel be involved in the permitting of special events. This motion passed by acclamation.**

Mr. Gregory opened the discussion on what the CODI goals should be for this year. Ronald Fulton spoke about the need to make housing a priority. He has attended affordable housing meetings. He said there is very little affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities. He would like the organization that is involved in promoting affordable housing to do a presentation to CODI. Mr. Gregory encouraged Mr. Fulton to take the leadership in that area and if he needed CODI's help to come back and request the help. Mr. Rigerman asked that parking be a top issue. He asked if Bobbie Parker could come to the meeting and be requested to enforce the law. He also asked if everyone could take a minute or two out of the meeting to tell the committee what they are doing. Mr. Martinez asked about homeless shelters. Ms. Hyams said that the homeless shelters owned by the County did have accessibility but Mr. Fulton wondered about homeless shelters that get County funds.

A friendly amendment was mentioned concerning the motion made earlier about special events. Mr. Miller stated that the primary goal was to have the ADA office sign off on the permit before the event. Mr. Wood stated that a person from Parks needs to supervise the setup to make sure that they are following guidelines and to shut down the event if it isn't accessible. Mr. Wood went on to say that he believed vendors would appreciate to know how to make their displays accessible. Dr. Kohlenberg read the handout of instructions that Ms. Binhack gave out and thought the accessibility guidelines were very good.

Mr. Gregory asked that members review the Bylaws to be discussed next time. Ms. Hyams said that there were copies of the Bylaws on the table and on CODI's website.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Hyams mentioned that CAHSA meetings are temporarily suspended until more information becomes available on the extension of the Surtax program currently in review at the Florida legislature, the stimulus monies, etc.

Ms. Hyams also mentioned that if anyone was interested she would be having a meeting on Friday March 27 at 1:30 to discuss the single family rehab draft contract and also information of the employment initiative.

Mr. Fulton mentioned that there was an audio-conference from 2-5 on Thursday, March 26 the number to call was 1888-808-6959 CODE# 6101108

Ms. Hyams explained that the Air Carriers Access Act has been amended. The most important information is that now foreign carriers must comply with this federal law; foreign airlines that take off or land in the United States which retain the same flight number. Also there are new standards for people who need oxygen during the flight or have personal breathing equipment that they need on board the flight. There are conflict resolution officers available to aid a person with a disability that is having a problem before or after a flight. She asked anyone who wants more information to give her a call and she can send them the new amendments. She give out a number that travels with disabilities may use if they are experiencing any problems: 1-800 778-4838 or TTY number 1-800-455-9880

Next meeting will be April 22, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.